Volume 7

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The Meaning Of Malcolm In These Times

Each year, during the month of May, the HARAMBEE FLAME dedicates some space to the memory of Brother Malcolm. And each year there are probably those who pick up the FLAME and wonder: "Why don't they let the dead stay buried?" As Africans, we respect the tradition of giving homage to the spirit of our ancestors. In addition, Malcolm espoused ideas that deserve being remembered. But there is

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George Simmonds Sets Fire At H.A.C.O. Banquet

(Coverage on page two)

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Simmonds At Banquet

On Sunday, April 27, The Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization held its tenth-anniversary banquet here at the Nebraska State Prison in Lincoln. The banquet, which convened at 5:30, was opened by the recitation of the H.A.C.O. creed, led by our Sgt.-at-Arms, Asim, and followed by an invocation in which Kobina Baiden called upon the spirits of our ancestors to bring us success in our work and good health and productivity/fertility to and for ourselves and the Sisters and Brothers who were our guests. Kobina, who is of Ghanaian birth, also poured libation and spoke both in his native tongue and in English, taking time to explain the nature and functions of his prayer.

Our chairman, Ajabu, addressed the group briefly and was followed by Balogun, the H.A.C.O. librarian, who gave a history of the organization's ten years of struggle, difficulties, change, and accomplishments. The main address was delivered by Professor George E. Simmonds, who teaches African History at Malcolm-King College in New York City, is co-author (with Dr. Yosef ben-Jochannon) of THE BLACK MAN'S NORTH AND EAST AFRICA, and is President of Alkebu-lan Foundation.

Brother Simmonds' address focused primarily on the importance of our gaining and /or adding to our knowledge of our selves as African people and it included historical fragments, which served to illustrate points and add spice to mental and spiritual food which was hot on its own. In stressing the value of individual and collective self-respect, Professor Simmonds spoke of the anthropological evidence of Africa being the birthplace of humankind and of the many scientific and philosophical developments and ideas given birth to by African people. He went on to make the point that, despite the prevalent myth of white superiority, African people, by virtue of humankind's African origins, are the parents of Caucasians. This point, along with several others made by Simmonds, was delivered to affirm to the African audience that we are to be our own masters, not slaves to Caucasians or to their institutions.

Simmonds' talk was interrupted several times by applause. And the learned speaker was given a standing ovation at the conclusion of his address.

Award presentations were made by Asim and Ajabu. Certificates for outstanding participation in H.A.C.O. were given to:

Ajabu(Alan Hardin)
Askari(Darwin Robinson)
Gerald Grant
Mondo(David Rice)

Plaques for outstanding organizational service were presented to Mondo and Ajabu; a plaque was awarded to Askari for outstanding participation in H.A.C.O. meetings; and Waliyy Hakeem(W. H. Gill) received a plaque(accepted for him by Buddy Hogan) for outstanding service to both the organization and to the African community on the outside.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to all H.A.C.O. members who were not otherwise awarded. The award ceremony was followed by a performance of traditional and contemporary native African music by Kobina & Company. Chairman Ajabu followed the performance with an awarding of red-black-and-green beaded necklaces to the members of the organization's intramural basketball team and congratulating them on their hard play and positive attitude.

Our meal consisted of fish curry(a traditional Afr ican dish), black-eyed peas, turnip and collard greens, fruit salad, dinner rolls, and pecan pie. Following the meal, the banquet participants returned to the visiting area for taped music, informal conversation, some rug-cutting, and having a good time in general.

Our special thanks to Buddy and Ashanti for the assistance they gave us in providing for the transportational needs of Professor Simmonds. And our thanks, as well, to Idu and Kobina for the work they did in getting folks here.

CHARLIE WASHINGTON

(1923-1986)

May his spirit rest in peace.

Meaning of Malcolm

another reason why we should and do call upon the spirit of Malcolm. If we look upon ourselves(African people in the U.S.) as one body, one person, it does appear that a vital organ of ours is malfunctioning terribly--our heart. If one enters a fight and does not "go all out" or quits after a very short time, it is said of such a person that he or she "has no heart." There is no question that we are in a fight, a fight which occurs on many levels. We are fighting to survive in difficult economic times. We are fighting to keep our families together. We are fighting to gain some respect in the political arena. We are fighting. But when we are fighting against the political/economic powers that be in this country, when we are fighting against "the system," we have no heart, or a heart that is pathetically inefficient in pumping blood.

So we call upon the spirit of Malcolm because we need some heart and one does not seem to be available. There is no single person, on a national level, nor any single movement, which seems capable of repairing, stimulating, or replacing our weak or non-existent heart. Since we can not find a live person, then we must raise someone up from the dead to do the work which should be done by the living. We rattle the bones of Malcolm to remind you, to remind ourselves, of what a thing it is to have heart, to have the courage to enter a dangerous fray and the integrity to identify the foe, to pull his mask off in front of everyone.

When Sharon Scranage was arrested by the F.B.I. for turning over to a Ghanaian citizen information about C.I.A. operations and operatives in Ghana, where were we? Whatever this Sister's motivations, she, in effect,put the interests of African people in Ghana over those of an Uncle Sam. whose racist and arrogant foreign policy certainly means no African folks any earthly good and whose domestic policy means likewise for American-born Africans. Where were the establishments of legal defense funds, the rallies, the press conferences? We were more stirred up by the dethroning of Vanessa Williams from her Miss America queenship. Wasn't Sharon a heroine for African people, here as well as elsewhere? "So when you select heroes about which black people ought to be taught, let them be black heroes who have died fighting for the benefit of black people."--Malcolm. Sharon did not die but she went to prison and her turn-over of the information of C.I.A. activities in Ghana certainly benefitted African people.

How is it that there appears to be no national outrage on the part of African people in the U.S. with respect to Wilson Goode's approval of and responsibility in the slaughter of the Sisters and Brothers of MOVE? "The American black 'leader's' most critical problem is lack of imagination! His thinking, his strategies, if any, are always limited, at least basically, to only that which is either advised or approved by the white man."--Malcolm. In authorizing the murder of the men, women, and children of MOVE, Wilson Goode became a Mayor Rizzo incarnate. Yet he apparently maintains the respect of a significant number of American-born Africans.

America invades and occupies Grenada, a nation of 110,000 African people; supports the government of South Africa; provides military aid to UNITA, the contra force attempting to overthrow Angola; bombs Libya, killing at least a hundred African women, men and children there and, yet, our young men continue joining the U.S. armed forces and the black press continues to promote this trend and to honor these mis-guided, modern-day "buffalo soldiers." "...it is very important to think out a situation for yourself. If you don't do it you'll always be maneuvered into a situation where you are never fighting your actual enemies, where you will find yourself fighting your own self."--Malcolm.

Our situation in this country is not good. It is not good economically, socially, politically, or otherwise. And we cannot afford the time to sit or kneel around in wait for some messianic leader to rise up from among us and pound our chests to get our hearts pumping. This is something we are going to have to do for ourselves and each other. We bring up the spirit of Malcolm from the cold soil of the grave and we rattle his bones because we've got to get some heart from somewhere. -Editor

From Other Sources

African Publishing House In Financial Trouble--"Founded in 1967 by Haki R. Madhubuti(then Don L. Lee), this...independent Black publishing company has served both as a 'springboard' for new writers and as a respected outlet and voice for established authors.

"In a field of diminishing Black publishing companies, Third World Press is the only Black independent publisher that produces African-American poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and children's books.

"There arecurrently 22 TWP titles in print or in production and an additional 14 titles projected for the 86-87 publishing season.

"An April 11, 1986 nationally distributed letterhead release regretfully revealed the reality that the publishing life of Third World Press may end if they soon do not raise $54,000."

-Excerpted from "Black Publishing Company In Danger of Closing," which appears on pages 1 and 7 of the April 26 edition of THE MILWAUKEE COURIER.

Ramona Africa Sentencing--"On Monday, April 14 Ramona Africa was sentenced in a Philadelphia City Hall courtroom (to a term of) 16 months to seven years in a state penitentiary.

"Over the weekend prior to April 14 two important developments took place. On Friday, April 11 a team of city inspectors attempted to gain access to the home of MOVE supporters. The inspection was supposed to have been prompted by anonymous reports that people were seen taking wood into the house. For this, MOVE supporters were accused of fortifying their house, while it is already known by the authorities who regularly surveil this that the residence has a wood-burning stove. The supporters refused to allow the inspectors to come inside...

"Over the same weekend a major news story broke in the Philadelphia press revealing that Rev. Paul Washington, a member of Mayor Goode's own Philadelphia Special Investigation Commission, had sent a letter to Judge Stiles requesting that Ramona Africa be released with time already served. ..The fact that a member of the mayor's own commission was calling for Ramona Africa's release added new difficulties in handling her sentencing. It served to break open the media silence on the fact that Ramona Africa's sentencing was up...and forced the District Attorney's office to come out in the open and reveal that they had been pressing for Ramona Africa to be given the maximum sentence(14 years).

"At 10 a.m. on Monday morning forces were already in gear outside city hall...Approximately five hundred people stepped forward to sign a petition that day calling for Ramona Africa's release. In all over two thousand people had signed the petition, which was submitted to Judge Stiles...

"A number of the speakers called out Wilson Goode for his role in the massacre, a point of debate and controversy that has kept some forces from speaking out against the massacre...In a city where folks are being urged to attend prayer vigils of support for Mayor Goode, the exposure of Goode's role in the massacre from various speakers drew noticeable cheers of approval from people in the crowd."

-Excerpted from "Defiance Marks Ramona Africa Sentencing," which appears on pages seven and eleven of the April 21 edition of REVOLUTIONARY WORKER.

Notes On The U.S. Press--"In 1900, 2,023 American publishers issued 2,042 daily newspapers. Today a shrinking number of publishers own some 1,700 U.S. daily newspapers.

"Among them five groups publish more than a third of the 62 million newspaper copies sold daily. Their names mean little to the public: Gannett, Knight-Ridder, Newhouse, Tribune, Scripps Howard. Gannett, the biggest chain, presides over some ninety mastheads.

"Today 98 per cent of daily newspapers have no competition; 1,656 of America's 1,700 dailies are the only papers in their res-

From Other Sources

pective cities. They are printed and circulated in profitable isolation, doing an annual business exceeding $40 billion.

"In the 1984 presidential election, 95 per cent of all newspapers belonging to the same group supported the same candidate.

"In the past fifteen years editorial space for so-called 'hard news' has dropped steadily, giving way to 'soft news'--gastronomic trends and travel stories rather than Caesar's activities.

"'Ads provide 99.5 per cent of the revenue of daily newspapers, and 58 per cent for magazines,' he(Dan Reid, senior vice-president of Leo Burnett, a major advertising agency) notes."

-Excerpted from "America's Media Empires," which appears on pages 19-21 of the May edition of WORLD PRESS REVIEW.

Progress Toward Peace In Zimbabwe--"The drive to merge Zimba bwe's two main political parties appears to have regained momentum.

"The most dramatic new gesture toward unity came March 23 when two members of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's cabinet joined opposition leader Joshua Nkomo for a joint rally in the Matabeleland stronghold of Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union(ZAPU).

"This was the first time Nkomo appeard in public with government officials since he was fired from the cabinet four years ago for allegedly plotting against Mugabe's government.

"...Nkomo told a mass meeting in Bulawayo that almost all the obstacles to merger had been overcome, and aligned himself with the government's anti-dissident campaign.

"Next, the government freed two men who were key leaders of Nkomo's military forces during the freedom struggle: Lookout Masuku and Bote Moyo. Both had been detained since 1982."

-Excerpted from "Rivals Share Podium," which appears on page 12 of the April 16 edition of THE GUARDIAN.

Sudan/U.S. Relations--"The Transitional Military Council that replaced former Sudanese dictator Jaafar Mohammed Nimieri a year ago has done little to alter domestic policies. It has, however, introduced significant changes in Sudan's relations with its neighbors. Within weeks of its take-over from Nimieri, a key U.S. ally in Africa, the military council sent an ambassador to Libya and signed a military agreement with the Qaddafi government. The pact prompted an end to arms shipments from Saudi Arabia and Egypt and incurred the wrath of the Reagan administration. It has been reported, meanwhile, that Sudan has recently concluded a second military agreement with its northwestern neighbor that will involve Libyan training of the ill-equipped Sudanese army.

"...members of Nimieri's state security forces have been on trial for several months for their involvement in the CIA-sponsored 'Operation Moses,' which saw the evacuation of over 12,000 Ethiopian Jews from Sudan to Israel during 1984-85. U.S. Embassy protests of the public proceedings have so angered Sudanese officials that they formally requested late last year that Washington recall its ambassador.

"Sudan's refusal to participate in scheduled joint military exercises last year caused shock in Washington. And the U.S. Embassy here has done little to hide its displeasure at the military council's moves to improve relations with Moscow. Yet nothing has irked Washington so much as Sudan's increasingly friendly relations with Libya."

-Excerpted from "Sudan: Tension And Turmoil," which appears on page 10 of the April 23 edition of THE GUARDIAN.

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Survey Graphic, "The March 1925 Number" HARLEM MECCA OF THE NEW NEGRO, edited by Alain Locke

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THE WONDERFUL ETHIOPIANS OF THE ANCIENT CUSHITE EMPIRE by Drusilla Dunjee Houston

For prices and further information, write to Black Classic Press. The first publishing dates for the above books range from 1913 through 1945.

As noted in our "From Other Sources" feature, Haki Madhubuti's Third World Press is in danger of folding. We urge you to help keep TWP alive. Send contributions to:

Haki R. Madhubuti
Third World Press
7524 South Cottage Grove Avenue
Chicago, ILL 60619

Inquiries may be made by calling 312-651-0700 during normal business hours.

FLAME Editorial Policy

The HARAMBEE FLAME, the monthly publication of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization, is a Pan-Africanist newsletter. This means that the FLAME's priority, with respect to news and views, is African people and events and developments which affect us and are, or should be, of concern to us. The FLAME does not recognize any artificial distinctions among African people based upon place of birth. Therefore, references to African people are made on the basis of our common ancestry. An exception to this policy is the reprinting of articles, or excerpts thereof, from other publications, in which cases we do not alter the terms used therein to fit our editorial policy.

Articles contained in the FLAME do not necessarily reflect the views of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization unless they are accompanied by a statement identifying the views as being those of the organization. Generally speaking, all unsigned articles are by the editor.

We encourage you to submit articles to the FLAME. Please enclose with your submission a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Articles should not exceed 900 words. Short stories are subject to the same restriction with respect to length. We also welcome poetry and graphics. Send submissions to:

HARAMBEE FLAME
Attn: Mondo
Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization
P.O. Box 2500
Lincoln, NE
68502-0500

FLAME Editor - Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa
(aka David Rice)

Speaking on the issue of our educational needs, I maintain that we must become students dedicated to the learning of the true nature of man/womanhood through liberating work, study, and expression of proper human character. As African people, we should embark upon this educating of ourselves armed with traditional African cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, **literary,** and artistic values. Through this process, we will, as a people, break the chains of oppression and alienation.
-Balogun(H. Davis)/H.A.C.O. Librarian

OSAGE AVE.

de flames burnin wood in a crackle pop
de flames burnin chile flesh offa bones
crackle pop
flesh lose a form
inch like a worms from bones to floor
to black ashes
screams curl like a de skin
get los in smoke
leave dey ghos to hang in fronta
blown out windahs
uhder chiren still widda life
woman still widda life
run from de poleece-made box a fire
to a alley space where bullits fly
like de salmon swim to spawn
chile by chile blowed back in by de
shameless enless lead
but a crack in de murder scheme
let de woman an one chile troo
ana mayor as black as dem
say "i take responsibility"
ana pats on his back from white mens
give a rhydm to a foul-ass play
where de bloody steamin
bubblin
pop cracklin
death live.

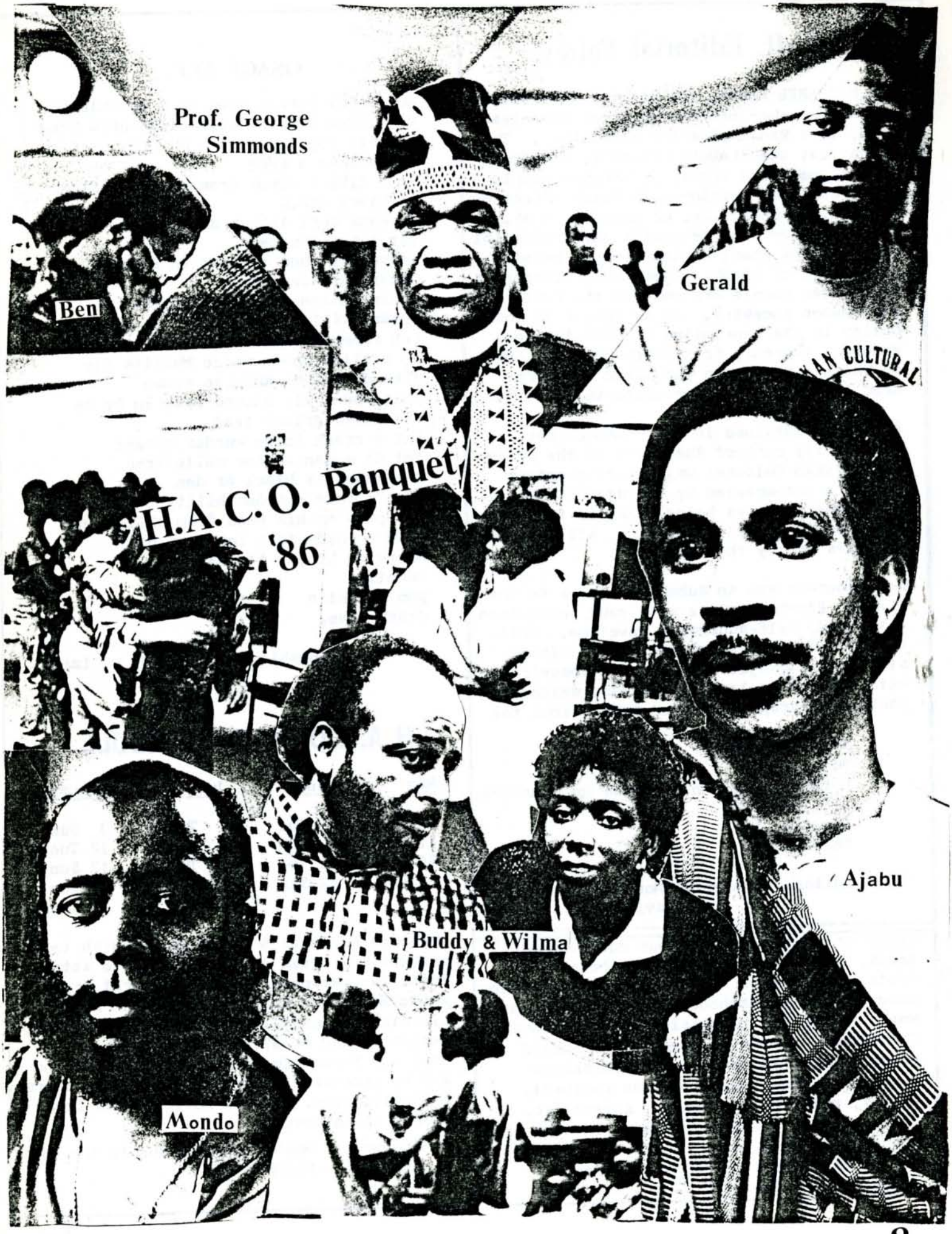
-Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa

H.A.C.O. MTG SCHEDULE

May	June	July	August
6 Tue	3 Tue	1 Tue	3 Sun
11 Sun	8 Sun	6 Sun	12 Tue
20 Tue	17 Tue	15 Tue	17 Sun
*26 Mon	22 Sun	20 Sun	26 Tue
		29 Tue	31 Sun

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. If you wish to present a program or simply want to attend, write to: Harambee Afrikan Cultural Org.; Attn: Education Chairman; P.O. Box 2500; Lincoln, NE; 68502-0500. Or call 471-3161, extension 380 or 379, between the hours of noon and three p.m. We urge you to attend and to encourage other Sisters and Brothers to do likewise. Please notify us at least a week in advance.

*We have a Monday meeting due to the 25th being a holiday.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